

Jumping Jack

A Jumping Jack is a flat toy puppet. Its hinged limbs move when you pull the string at the bottom of its body. The arms and legs move simultaneously but only sideways. Jumping Jack puppets can be made of wood, but the nineteenth-century paper puppets are better known. In those days sheets were produced with figure parts that could be cut out and coloured, if so desired.

Mr & Mrs Polichinelle

In French the Jumping Jack is called pantin. Polichinelle used to be the main character in French puppet theatre. During the nine-teenth century he was ousted by Guignol. The theatre in which the puppets perform is often also called Guignol. Polichinelle's costume is very colourful. He wears a tricorn hat, has a pointed chin, a hooked nose, a hump and a big pot belly. Like the Dutch Jan Klaassen and the English Mr Punch he attacks his opponents by wielding a big club.